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OR,

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General Summary of News.

EUROPE.

The press of intelligence from England, having long delayed our notice of some of the leading articles of interest from the principal cities of the continent of Europe, we embrace the earliest occasion of bringing to the notice of our readers several of the most striking of these that have been hitherto passed by unobserved.

We are enabled to do this the more readily, from having yesterday been put in possession of a file of the *Journal de Débats, Politiques, et Littéraires*, extending to the end of February, from which we hope to be able to select some articles which have not found their way into the English Papers that we have seen.

At a period when the subjects of education, and political disabilities on account of religion, are warmly agitated in England—it is curious to observe that petitions are presenting to the Government in France to remove certain obligations from men who are Protestants, at the same moment that a similar course is pursuing in England to emancipate those who are Catholics,—so arbitrary are the differences of religion, and so impossible is it that any religion should be orthodox, but the religion of the state.

The Paris Papers of the 16th of February, contain the following report of the proceedings in the Chamber of Deputies, in the Sitting of the preceding day:—

The Order of the Day called for the Report of the Commission of Petitions.

Mr. Jobez, Reporter, stated, that the Ministers of the Reformed Churches in the Departments of La Dordogne and La Gironde, and seventy-one fathers of Protestant families of Bordeaux, solicited legislative measures calculated to place the establishment of public instruction in unison with the rights guaranteed equally to all Frenchmen by the Charter; and also prayed that Colleges more especially destined to reformists of both persuasions might be erected in several of the principal towns, and particularly at Bordeaux. The petitioners stated, that it was a sacred duty in parents to watch over the religious education of their children; that they could not fulfil that duty in the Colleges as at present established, as they were deprived of the power of encouraging sentiments of piety in their minds, by daily exhortations; their instruction being principally directed by Roman Ecclesiastics, whose influence inspired just cause of alarm; that their children are exposed to the temptations which tend to shake the principles of their faith, and to estrange the affection due to their parents; that, moreover, the most serious mischief might result from such a classification of different persuasions, and prove injurious to the faith of both, and that it would be indispensable to separate the pupils, as his Majesty had deigned to ordain in the rules for primary instruction.

These petitions, said the Reporter, merit a serious examination. We have not, however, examined the grounds of the questions which they embrace; that is to say, whether it would be a prudent remedy for the evils of which they complain, to adopt a measure which would tend to establish in public instruction, and perhaps throughout the State, very imprudent limits; and to create several tribes amongst people of one and the same nation, instead of associating citizens by those ties, which, fostered by common education, unite from their youth by the firmest bonds, men of all classes and opinions. But in expressing doubts on the suitableness of this measure, it must be acknowledged, that it was of importance to calm the fears of the Protestants, even though they might be exaggerated.

The Commission therefore proposed, that the petitions be referred to the Minister of the Interior.

M. Voyer d'Argenson said, that the Petitions of the Protestants of Bordeaux had claims upon the attention of the Chamber, inasmuch, as that with very few exceptions, they concerned all the Protestants of France: those who were inhabitants of the Department he belonged to, had several times addressed to him several similar complaints, which he had deposited with the Commission of Public Instruction. Year after year elapsed, and they had continued to entertain the hope that a project of a law on this important subject would have appeared, which had occasioned his deferring to bring their claims before the Chamber.

The Honourable Member, after adverting to the allegations which the petitions contained, relative to the distinctions which operated against the religious interests of Protestant pupils in the Royal and Communal Colleges, proposed, that the most efficacious means of proving the truth of those assertions would be, to form a Commission charged 'to ascertain the state of public instruction in France, as connected with the liberty of religious worship.' He then submitted a long series of questions for the guidance of the Commission proposed to be found, in their inquiries respecting the abuses complained of.

M. Dupont (de l'Eure) warmly supported the request of the petitioners. They are, said he, fathers of families whose solicitude merits the earnest regard of the Chamber. The abuses they complain of are not of minor importance; they tend to inflame, to perpetuate animosities, and religious feuds, and to exclude a great body of French subjects from the benefits of the Constitution. They claim the advantages of public instruction, which is guaranteed them by the Constitution, and which they are deprived of because all the functions of this important institution are exclusively confined to Roman Catholics. To tolerate similar abuses was to tolerate a very injurious privilege. He voted for the petitions being referred to the Minister of the Interior.

M. Royer-Collard said, that the statutes of the Universities acknowledged the free exercise of religious worship. The Commission of Public Instruction, of which he had the honour of being President, enforced the execution of the laws on this

point; they had received no complaints, and he would venture to affirm that none had been addressed to the Minister of the Interior; otherwise, they would certainly have been sent to the Commission. He could not pass over the serious abuses stated by M. Veyer d'Argenson. They were wholly void of foundation, and he could only answer them by a formal denial. With respect to the question which arose out of these Petitions, and the speeches by which it was supported, he would not then examine whether it was politic to instruct upon a separate system Protestants and Catholic children, and to teach them from their childhood to war against each other, instead of instilling in their infant minds the sentiments of peace and concord. He supported the proposition, that the petitions be referred to the Minister of the Interior.

M. de Villele, after a few observations, supported the proposition of the Commission.

The Keeper of the Seals deprecated the introduction which had been made of topics foreign to the question, and supported the proposition that the petitions be referred to the Minister of the Interior, which was adopted by the Chamber.

Rome.—The following is given in a late Letter from hence, as the state of public affairs in this "great and eternal city."

"You will doubtless be curious to know what change these dominions have undergone in consequence of their long subjection to French influence, and finally indeed to French rule. Are the people more enlightened, is their condition improved, do they participate that general impulse now felt throughout the Continent towards representative Government? Those natural questions I will solve with candour, and with as much accuracy as my inquiries and opportunities of observation enable me to do.

First, as to religious habits, when I see Romans of all classes daily flocking to a high flight of steps, called the Holy Staircase, to ascend it on their knees, because they are told it is one often trodden by our Saviour at Jerusalem; when I see Romans again of all classes, crowding before a bronze statue of St. Peter, in order to kiss the great toe of that Prince of the Apostles, which is literally worn away in great part by this repeated act of devotion; or when on the festival of St. Antony, I witness the ceremony of blessing and sprinkling with Holy Water, one after the other, the horses and donkeys of this city and the neighbouring villages, all drawn up in rich trappings for the purpose before the Church of the Saint; when I see these and other such instances of fervency of faith in the Romans of this day, I cannot conclude that the French have much enlightened them. From these singular practices, which shew the religious feeling of the present Romans, you will be easily led to infer what may be their political feeling, and what accession of light of any kind they have derived from their long and close intercourse with the French people. Next as to the effects of French rule on the condition of the people—under that power, religious orders were suppressed, and their property applied to the payment of the public debt; beggary, the disgrace of modern Rome, was at the same time prohibited to both high and low, and employment given to all according to their just pretensions and abilities. The roads were kept safe by a vigilant police, and the stiletto disappeared under the dread of military execution. Justice was well administered, the Judges being few, and paid by the public instead of being paid by the parties. Taxation reached all classes alike, and was, though heavy, on that account cheerfully borne; in short, all was subjected to rule and nothing to caprice. To this may be added, that the fine arts were encouraged by Government, that some manufactures began to rise, that industry was understood to be every one's best resource, and that a general taste for the conveniences of life began to spread.

Now, if you reverse this picture, you will have a tolerably just idea of the present state of things, and of that ever since

the restoration of the Papal Power. To add, however, that under these circumstances, the feeling of the people is that of discontent, and that they look to any political reform as the means of improving their condition, would be saying too much. Far from such views, bigotted as they are to their faith, or rather to its exterior practices and ceremonies (for, it may be said with truth, that not one Roman out of a hundred thinks on his faith, or knows the meaning of it), they, with a very few exceptions, cling to their present form of Government, as calculated by its nature to foster their propensity to indolence, and leave them undisturbed to that ignorance and apathy in which they are so deeply sunk: whence you will perceive that these dominions must be considered as insulated from the rest of Italy, in point of political sentiment, and as no wise participating the effervescence observable in other parts of the Peninsula.

But if, since their emancipation from French rule, the Papal dominions have relapsed into all the vices attendant on bad administration, they have on the other hand found some compensation in the renewal of their intercourse with British merchants, and in the resort to their capital of British travellers of distinction. The wants felt of late years in England and other countries, in consequence of failure of the harvests, together with the constant residence of many opulent foreign families in this city, and the constant passage of others through it, have occasioned a considerable influx of wealth into the Roman States. Their imports are now much exceeded by their exports, of which fact good evidence is afforded by the state of their exchange with both England and France, and the great abundance of coin, both gold and silver, but particularly the former, observed in this country. Accordingly, the revenue, which is chiefly derived from duties on foreign trade, has been progressively increasing, and would no doubt, if usefully employed, tend much to diffuse affluence among the people. The productiveness of the taxes also, which though not heavy upon the whole, are in some instances oppressive through unequitable assessment, together with the numerous state lotteries, a never failing source, have likewise much contributed to this good financial result.

Having said thus much on the commerce and revenue of the Papal dominions, as well as on the condition of the people and on their political feeling, I will just add one word on the spirit and tendency of the Government, both as to its internal and external concerns. The supreme direction of all things continues to lie with Cardinal Gonsalvi, a Minister able and enlightened, but much thwarted in his views by the very delicate situation in which he is placed. In the effecting of any good (to which he is not disinclined), he has to overcome, first the scruples of the aged Pontiff, and then the opposition of the whole College of Cardinals, a body greatly jealous of his power, and yet one of which he must be tender in the extreme, as that on which his future promotion to the Pontificate must depend. In the departments under him, every one of which is held by a Cardinal, even the military, he meets no concurrence or support in the execution of his designs. His only subordinate agents prompt to obey, are among the Prelates of the second order, who are obsequious, because they still look to the people, but hardly is any one of these raised to it by means of the Minister, than he quickly turns about joining in the opposition against him.

Proceeding now to the spirit of the Papal Government under Gonsalvi, and judging of it from the *motu proprio* issued in 1816, the work of that Minister, and containing some liberal dispositions, and from many changes recently introduced into the different departments of State, in conformity to that document, it would seem to be directed, at least in temporal matters, towards a gradual reform; but it will appear at the same time from what I have said above, that this

wise tendency is obstructed by a variety of prejudices and interests very powerful, and constant in their operation. Thus the measures that evince this tendency expose the Minister to much obloquy, and bring upon him at present the charge of distinguishing between the interests of the Church and those of the State, and of paving the way, in concert with an influencing foreign power, for an ultimate separation of the two. Some even go so far as to hint that the late restoration of the Pope did not take place without a secret treaty, or understanding to that effect. You perceive that I allude to the plan said to be in contemplation, and indeed to have been already brought before the Congress, of dividing the temporal and spiritual powers at the decease of the reigning Pontiff, the latter being vested, as usual in a Head, to be elected by the Conclave, and the former to be held in future by Austria, which would thus incorporate the Roman States, like the Venetian, with its Empire. Be this as it may, the plan itself is much the subject of conversation at Rome, where the Archduke Joseph continues, and where his illustrious brother, the Emperor, is expected for the approaching Carnival. It is esteemed here, that the British Power is that from which the plan in question would meet most opposition.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

By the brig Guide, Captain Higgins, we have received files of Sydney Gazettes extending to the 19th of January.

It is reported by still later departures from thence, that Governor Macquarrie had been succeeded either by Sir Charles, or Sir Thomas Brisbane, it was not distinctly remembered which, but of this we have no positive accounts.

The following selection of articles of local intelligence from the Gazettes in our possession, at a moment when the state of this colony attracts so large a share of Parliamentary and public attention at home, may not be unacceptable:

"On the 13th of January, at ten o'clock, His Excellency the Governor inspected the prisoners, who were that morning landed, arrived in the General Stuart and Tyne; all of whom were in a perfectly healthy state, denoting the humane and judicious attention they had received upon their voyage. His Excellency, on the muster of the General Stuart's people, enquired whether they had any complaints against the Surgeon Superintendent, under whose guidance they had been especially placed; or against the Officer of the military guard; or against the Commander of the ship, or his Officer; which demand was answered by a universal cry of "No, no, no, none whatever!" We are sorry to add, however, that several of the men were distinguished from the others for a most daring and insulting demeanor towards the Commander of the guard, and the detachment under his orders; for which they were directed to be placed in the gaol gang during His Excellency's pleasure, with the assurance that their removal from thence would depend upon a reformed conduct. The inspection of the Tyne's prisoners was accompanied by no such complaint; the men were reported to have generally well conducted themselves; and were appropriated, as were all the others with the exception already noticed, to suitable situations.

In last week's report of the Globe, Captain Blyth's arrival, the Surgeon Superintendent was named D. Payton, instead of Dr. Clayton.—The passengers, Deputy Commissary General Drennan, and Lady; Miss Eliza Walsh; Miss Ann Walsh; and Mr. John Gaggin.

We omitted in our last Gazette the mention of the Officer in command of the military guard on board the Tyne; this was Captain Roe, of the 84th, accompanied by his Lady, whose health, which had been unfortunately impaired, has benefited much by the voyage.

The following extraordinary account of a snake killed the 31st of December, on Mr. Hadley's farm, contiguous to the

new road to Liverpool, may not be considered as uninteresting. —The length of the reptile exceeded 8 feet; the ventral circumference 10 inches; the head and teeth large; the emittants, or what are commonly called the fang teeth, excessively protuberant. The man by whom this frightful reptile was killed is 70 years of age, his name Daniel Wellings; who first perceived it in an erect posture in a high grass field, waving to and fro with a loud hissing noise, in menace of his approach. The old man instantly procured a stick, and with three strokes laid it down, *hors de combat*, when by repeated blows, the victory was accomplished.

The amount of subscriptions to the Society which was instituted in the year 1817, for the purpose of relieving distressed Settlers and their Families, who were rendered destitute by the unhappy inundations of that year, have been transmitted to us, and would have been inserted in the present paper, but for the interposition of circumstances which carry it over to the publication of the ensuing week. We are happy to state, that the donations called forth upon this interesting occasion were such as to give a claim upon the general thanks of the Colony to those who liberally stepped forward in aid of the numbers who fell unhappily under the necessity of preferring a claim to the benevolent effort of relieving; which, in addition to the aids afforded by the beneficence of Government, overcame in the result the dreadful consequences of a scarcity, which became the more menacing as the season advanced. The private reliefs afforded upon this trying occasion were numerous, and it was indeed needful that it should be so; the tale of calamity was no where urged in vain, and all orders of society happily coalesced in one magnanimous sentiment. However unpleasing in itself the recollection of a past suffering, which was severely felt by the Colony at large, but ruinously so to many a worthy settler and his family, yet the picture now before us is assuasive; the cultivator removes his produce to a safer home for his harvest, and can, by the trouble of removing his stacks from danger to security, provide against those distressing results in future.

It must have been remarked by persons inhabiting situations that are washed by the tides, that the spring tides which were highest on the 13th of January, and two succeeding days, rose higher by four or five inches than had been experienced for seven or eight years previous. This we have ourselves observed with particular attention, and vouch for its correctness from a continued observation for more than the period described. It must be at the same time remarked, as a speculative method of accounting for this phenomenon, that the height of the barometer exceeded, during the fortnight of which the days mentioned form a part, the average for the same period in any of the years above mentioned, and consequently that the melting of the ices at the south pole was much greater than in any of those years. It is curiously coincident to add, that upon naming the foregoing observation to a nautical gentleman, he assured us, that during the last summer, much greater bodies of ice had been floated from the northern regions than ever before remembered. To the theories of a Saint Pierre these combined circumstances would doubtless have given considerable weight."

AMERICA.

A late Baltimore paper says—"A merchant, honourable and worthy as our country can boast (Joseph Kearick), was on the 15th of December, in the year of our Lord 1818, found guilty, in the city of Baltimore, of a high crime and misdemeanour, which, under the special acts of a Republican Congress, subjects him to fine and imprisonment, for having, as the agent of Commodore Taylor, procured 45 quarter casks and five barrels of old powder, to be exchanged for one keg less of new!"

Royal Gallantry.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

Sir,

The following Anecdote of a late King of Prussia may deserve a place among the varieties of your columns, as being on a subject that can never be out of date.

The Princess of Prussia having ordered some rich silks from Lyons, which bore a high duty on importation into Stetin, the place of her residence, the Collector there rudely detained them until the duties upon them should be settled. The Princess was displeased, and requested the Collector to wait upon her in person with the goods, in order that the public demands might be satisfied. On his entrance, the servants of the Princess took forcible possession of the silks; she herself gave him two or three smart cuffs on the face, and then ordered that he should be thrust out of doors. The mortified Collector drew up a memorial, in which he complained bitterly of the dishonorable treatment he had experienced in the exercise of the duties of his office. The King gave the following answer:

"The loss of the duties belongs to my account. The silks are to remain in the possession of the Princess. The cuffs with him that receives them. As to the supposed dishonor, it is hereby cancelled on the representation of the complainant:—but it is of itself null; for the white hand of a fair lady cannot possibly dishonor the face of a Custom-House-Officer."

Berlin, Nov. 30, 1778.

(Signed) FREDERICK.

No, to be sure, Mr. Editor, nor of any other man; because (which His Majesty of Prussia might as well have added) he who is so visited is entitled to immediate satisfaction, having an acknowledged right to snatch just as many kisses as he receives slaps, with an advance of Fifty per cent.

Calcutta, Aug. 2, 1819.

ECRAP.

False Characters.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

Sir,

The subject of my present address is one which so nearly concerns the community at large, that I should consider it a dereliction of duty were I not to give it publicity.

Of the conduct of Servants, their vicious habits of *ebriety, lying, thieving*, and general neglect and disregard of their master's orders, we have all, or most of us, daily experience, in a very mortifying degree; but as great evils are said in time to work their own cure, it is to be hoped that a wholesome reformation among this class of beings, may in time be brought about, and to this desirable end we ought surely to lead a helping hand.

To observe the faults and frailties of others and at the same time to be totally blind to our own, is a failing so general among mankind as to need no exposition, but that we should ourselves unwittingly be the chief instruments in aiding and promoting the vices complained of in our Servants, does require, perhaps, a little elucidation.

When a Servant quits his employ, or is discharged without fault, the master is easily prevailed on to give him a written Character, and this he too frequently does with a *dash of his pen*, and without the smallest consideration of the consequences. I am told, and can readily enough believe, that a Document of this kind, in a City so populous as Calcutta, is little less in value than a *ving annuity for life*! If either from age and infirmity, or the love of idleness and debauchery, the possessor of it is not disposed to serve again, he has only to comply with the applications of his less fortunate brethren, who, having no such testimonial, are glad enough, at the trifling expense of half a rupee, or even double that sum, according to their means or the degree of success with which the enterprise is attended, to avail themselves of this valuable Document, *on loan*: It is of little consequence to him, whether he goes by the name of *Rum Johnny, Tiger Doss*, or any other; for having made himself acquainted with the leading points in the Document, such as the length of servitude and the writer's name, his rank or situation in life, &c. he finds little difficulty in imposing upon the unsuspecting.

On the strength of so good a Character, he is admitted into service, with all his unblushing vices thick upon him! and if disposed to pilfer, he finds little difficulty; an empty bottle, but more frequently a *full one*, a *Silver Spoon*, a *Watch*, a *bag of Ru-*

pees, or even a bunch of *Keys* are all very alluring, and he knows how to make the best use of any or all of them. Within these few months I have detected no less than five or six of these *Impostors*, but the last deserves particular notice. The written testimonial of Character which he brought me will speak for itself, and the consequences which might have resulted from an inconsiderate entertainment of him in my service will be sufficiently obvious to every one. Here it is, *ad litteram*.

"This is to certify that Tagore Doss served me as a Bearer from his infancy, when I got him from the country in a state of nature. He has afforded me every satisfaction, and I highly approve of his conduct. As a striking trait in his character, he will be found to be above those nasty prejudices so prevalent among his pagan brethren.—I mean he will not hesitate to obey every reasonable order. With respect to his honesty, I feel justified in stating that he has never abused that confidence which I had reposed in him when entrusted with the conveyance of money to a distant part of the country, more so than many a white of the lower order now a days. Vide the Newgate Calendar and the History of Botany Bay, a proud triumph over the calumniators of his nation and country!!!"

July 23, 1819.

J. HIGGINS.

You will doubtless, Sir, think with me, that the above is a most dangerous implement, if I may be allowed the expression, with which to arm any man in Tagore Doss's walk of life. How many of us are there who would not have hesitated to employ any man possessing and producing such a document? and to have reposed that trust in him which we might have had but too early reason to repent of? Men in business, we know, keep Banyans and Sircars, who are a security for servants; but how many respectable and wealthy private families and persons are there in Calcutta and its environs, who are differently situated? Persons also who are only sojourners, are at all times here a numerous class; and I have known many of them to have been robbed by servants who brought excellent characters.

The man who brought the character in question to me, was very loth indeed to leave it. His age, which he acknowledged to be about thirty, first created suspicion, and further interrogation served to convince me that he was an impostor, and not the person designated by Mr. Higgins. I desired him to call next morning, and told him that if, upon due inquiry, I found him to be the *true Tagore Doss*, I would employ him. He has not since appeared, nor have I heard any thing of him.

That frequent and sometimes serious robberies are committed by servants, the records of our Courts of Justice and Police will amply testify; as a means of guarding against which, I take leave to offer one or two simple suggestions to my fellow citizens: viz. to be more cautious and circumspect in giving written characters to servants; never to entertain a servant without he has one which shall designate him not only by name, but by a description of his person, age, complexion, and stature, and any particular mark, if he should exhibit any in his countenance, body, or limbs; a necessary and wise precaution taken, I believe, in the Navy and Army, when sailors and soldiers are entertained and enlisted, and which would be equally wise and beneficial if observed in the way now suggested.

A Lady who left this country a few years ago, was prevailed on to give a character to the female servant who attended her to Europe, in duplicate, on a plea urged by the woman, that she might lose one; and this woman, from a knowledge, I presume, of its value to her, refused the offer of One Hundred Rupees for it: I mean for one of them. A Gentleman, who was a passenger from England, made her the offer, from a conviction of the disappointment, misery, and mischief, it might possibly create to some future female voyager.

On a former and similar occasion of servants tendering to me a false character, I once addressed that truly zealous and active Magistrate, the late Mr. Elliott, and had he not been prematurely taken from us, something, I believe, would have been devised and promulgated on this head, for the public benefit. A conviction in my own mind, of the beneficial consequences which might in time result from a general observance of the suggestions contained in this recital, has been my inducement to lay it before the Public; and as we have had such convincing proofs of your zeal in the service of the general good, I have the more confidence in my hope that you will deem this subject worthy a column in your widely circulating Journal.

Calcutta, 2d August, 1819.

BENEFICUS.

Public Nuisance.

We have authority to state, in reply to the representations held forth in the Letter on Public Nuisances, which was printed in our Journal of yesterday, under the signature of "A REFORMER," that the Committee for Improving the City of Calcutta have nothing to do with Nuisances such as those described; but that their removal should be effected by the Conservancy Department of the Police; as they arise from *illegal* encroachments on the comfort of the Public, and are therefore fit grounds for indictment.

The duty of the Committee for the Improvement of the City, is to suggest to the Government, measures for the removal of obstacles to the health, safety, and convenience, of the Inhabitants; but the preservation of streets, wharves, &c. from *encroachment*, belongs to the Police Magistrates. The Committee make *new* roads, widen avenues, construct ditches, &c. but it is the duty of the Police to see all these *preserved* to their *proper* uses, and kept in repair.

This distinction should therefore be kept in view; for, if it is important to be clear in the facts on which complaints are grounded, it is equally so to know distinctly what branch of the municipal authority is culpable for the neglect, and to whom the application for redress should be made.

Avarice Outwitted.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

On my return home the other day from a visit to the Bazaar Bazar, I lay down on my couch, and according to custom took up a book to amuse myself. It happened to be Goldsmith's Essays, — Essay the V. — I read the first paragraph, and on perusing the commencement of the 2d:—"When we reflect on the manner in which mankind generally confer their favors; there appears something so attractive in riches, that the large heap generally collects from the smaller." I was struck very forcibly, for I had just a little before then (I mean when in the Bazar), witnessed a ludicrous scene, which this remark of the Doctor's brought to my memory.

It was this:—A Byragee, who had been reading in his Shashtra that money draws money, was resolved to put the assertion to the test, and went with a rupee in his hand to a Shroff or money changer, and seeing a large heap of rupees,—which it is the practice of the Shroffs always to have piled up before them,—he threw his rupee into the heap, and patiently waited to see the result.

The Shroff, when it was time to shut up shop, began to put up his money into his coffers. The Byragee witnessed his doing so, and at length, when all was secured, and the Shroff was about to shut the door, the Byragee began to make an uproar, by saying that the Shroff had taken a rupee of his. This brought a concourse of people, and an expostulation was entered into.

The Byragee candidly confessed what he had done, in consequence of the passage he had read. The Shroff was asked, if he had seen the rupee thrown in "Yes"—says he. The cry then was, "Deliver it up, deliver it up."—"No, no, says the Shroff, that would be wrong!" the Byragee says, 'money draws money'; mine has drawn his; had his been more than mine, it would have drawn mine; but as it is, his money has been *overpowered*, so let it remain, friends. Every one agreed, and the crowd dispersed.

This is a strange coincidence, and as it seems to substantiate what Goldsmith says, you may be disposed to give it a corner in your Journal for the information of the curious.

I am, Mr. Editor, your constant reader.

RAMCHUNDER CHUCKERPATTY.

Calcutta, }
July 27, 1819, }

Son of the Morning.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

In discussing the question as to the personage alluded to by Lord Byron, under the appellation of "Son of the Morning," I do not know whether the etymology of *LU-CIFER* has been alluded to. The signification of that name, in the original language, is obviously "*bringing light*." If, therefore, any doubt could longer exist

upon the subject, after referring to the passage in the Scriptures pointed out to you by W. E. of Allahabad, the mere translation of the name would decide the point. On consulting Cruden's Concordance, a work equally valuable and astonishing, I cannot discover that Lucifer is any where, either in the Old or in the New Testament, addressed as the *Son of the Morning*, except in Isaiah, Chap. 14, verse 12.

Your intelligent Correspondent at Barrackpore says, that Lucifer is called the *Star*, though it is not usual to call him the *Son of the morning*. The Rev. Mr. Scott, in his notes upon the text of Isaiah just mentioned, observes that "the Jews here resume the discourse, and address the King of Babylon by the title of *Lucifer*, *Son of the Morning*, the *morning star* being the first in dignity among the princes of the earth; but he was now fallen from heaven and utterly debased." But although Lucifer, as bringing light, might, in the language of poetry, with equal propriety, perhaps, be designated either as "the Son of the Morning," or as "the Morning Star," I cannot find that the latter appellation is given to him in any part of the Scriptures. It is applied very differently in Revelations, chap. ii. verse 28, and in chap. xxii. verse 16.

The falling star, Revelations, chap. ix. verse 1, &c. is considered by the Rev. Mr. Scott as the prediction of the successes of the Eastern Antichrist, Muhammad.

"Amos, chap. v. verse 26, speaking of the idolatry of the Israelites in the wilderness, informs us, 'that they carried along with them the *star of their god*.' St. Stephen, in Acts, chap. vii. verse 43, quoting this passage of Amos, according to the Septuagint, says, 'Ye took up the *tabernacle of Moloch*, and the *star of your god Remphan*.' This last opinion has given occasion to a great number of conjectures of Grotius, Vossius, Diodorus Siculus, and others. The opinion that is most common is, that it was a representation of the planet *Saturn*."—(CRUDEN.)

I am, Sir, your's obediently,

SCRAP.

Chouringhee, 2d August, 1819.

SYDNEY GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

General Orders, Head-quarters, Sydney: Saturday, January 16, 1819.

Deputy Commissary General Frederick Drennan has arrived in this Colony, in order to take upon himself the general Superintendence of the Commissariat Department, in the room of Deputy Commissary General David Allan, who returns to Europe.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. Robert W. Owen, to act as Assistant Surgeon at the Settlement of Port Dalrymple, in Van Diemen's Land, in the room of Assistant Surgeon John Smith, who resigns that situation.

By the Command of His Excellency the Governor and Commander of the Forces,

H. C. ANTIL, Major of Brigade:

Government House, Sydney, January 16, 1819.

CIVIL DEPARTMENT.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, has been graciously pleased to sanction and approve of Thomas Wylde, Esq. being appointed Clerk of the Peace and Solicitor to the Crown in the Territory of New South Wales and its Dependencies, as recommended some time since by His Excellency the Governor.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, has been graciously pleased to approve and confirm His Excellency the Governor's appointment of Mr. James Meehan to be Deputy Surveyor General of Lands in the Territory of New South Wales and its Dependencies.

By His Excellency's Command,

J. T. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

Average Price of Articles at the Market at New South Wales, on the 15th of January last:—Wheat 6s. 11½d. per bushel; Maize 6s. per bushel; Barley 4s. 6d. per bushel; Potatoes 5s. 6d. per cwt. Eggs 1s. 9d. per dozen; Butter 2s. 3d. per lb.; Fowls 3s. per couple

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY, MARCH 2.

INQUIRY INTO THE LAWS INFLECTING CAPITAL PUNISHMENTS.

Sir JAMES MACKINTOSH said, that he now rose, pursuant to the notice he had given, to move that a select committee be appointed to consider so much of the criminal law as ordained capital punishment, and to report their opinion to the House. The Noble Lord (Castlereagh) agreed in the necessity of inquiry, and for a committee; they only differed as to the mode; he contending for a more extended mode of inquiry than the Noble Lord did. The Noble Lord wanted one committee; he wanted three. The Noble Lord had, however, agreed in the propriety of this proposition, for he had proposed, against all Parliamentary usage, to divide his committee into three sub-committees. The Noble Lord's motion was, for a committee to inquire into the state of gaols and prisons, with a view to the safe custody and future reformation of offenders. This committee then, even in the Noble Lord's own words, could have nothing to do with capital offences. Now his motion would be for the appointment of a committee to inquire into this important subject; and in doing this he should not follow his own judgment, but follow former Parliamentary practice; and first, he would take the resolution of 1750. The resolution then passed was more extensive than that he was now about to propose; and that committee, after sitting two sessions, came to a resolution that it was reasonable to exchange, as far as possible, the punishment of death for other adequate punishments; and in this committee would be found the eminent names of Mr. Pelham, Mr. Pitt, Sir Dudley Rider, Mr. Grenville, and others equally eminent; and Lord Hardwicke afterwards gave his sanction to this resolution. In 1770 was another committee, with Mr. Fox, Mr. Meredith, and other learned and eminent persons. The inquiry referred to them was much less extensive than that now proposed, yet that committee did not complete a report till after two sessions had expired. Now the Noble Lord had not pointed out any remedy for the evil which he had stated to the House. He had pointed out the increase of crimes, but he had not stated even an outline of the advantages which might be expected to arise from the labours of this committee. But he would go further than the Noble Lord, and state what he considered as the reasonable expectation which there was of advantage from the labours of his committee, if appointed: and here he would guard himself by saying, he had no intention of proposing a new code; such a proposition would be wild and visionary. He did not propose to do away the punishment of death, which he considered as necessary for self-preservation against incorrigible offenders. He had no intention to abridge judicial discretion, which he considered as wise; neither had he any intention to limit the exercise of the Royal prerogative of mercy, but to restore that power most fully to the Crown. His object was to bring the practice and the letter of the law to agree, and to do away uncertainty; to set criminal law and virtuous feeling in unison, which at present were at variance; and wherever such was the case, ill must follow. These were the objects which he hoped to gain by the appointment of his committee. He should not attempt to follow the Noble Lord through all his speech; but he must observe on some points of it. He had hoped that the crime of forgery would terminate with the resumption of cash payments; but the Noble Lord entertained a different opinion. So the Noble Lord said, the increase of crime had only kept pace with the increase of population. But here again they differed; for the increase of population, for the present purpose, must be taken comparatively and not positively. And here he must say, that the comparative size of London was not now equal to what it was in 1770. He must declare his opinion, that one source of the increase of crime was the increase of smuggling; another was the issue of bank-paper, which had increased pauperism; and pauperism and crime would ever go hand in hand. The ground on which he considered that the criminal law was not so efficacious as it might be, was, that the practice and letter of the law did not go hand in hand. In our statute book would be found 200 capital felonies; yet, for the last 70 years, only 25 of these had been held to be offences for which capital punishment should be inflicted. This, he thought, had originated, in a great measure, in the facility of legislation. Capital punishments were enacted without any consideration of party; and the laws thus became at variance

with the feelings of humanity. Sir William Grant had said, the law and the practice were diametrically opposite. The law, he said, might and ought to be reduced to the practice; the practice never could be brought to the law. Such was the opinion of Sir William Grant; an opinion founded on the soundest principles. Lord Rosslyn was the person who had first made the great reduction in capital punishments. His Lordship had, by degrees, reduced the proportion of executions from 1 in 5 to 1 in 8, 1 in 10, and at length to 1 in 11. Now, with respect to what he should recommend to the consideration of the committee, he should propose that murder, stabbing, arson, piracy, and all offences striking at human life, should be left out of the question; but he would ask whether any man alive would say that cutting a hop-bine or an ornamental tree in a gentleman's grounds, should be punished with death?—whether going to a masquerade with the face blacked, or destroying the head of a fish pond, should be adjudged by our criminal code offences for which death should be inflicted? Were not such statutes needless; and would any man say that a statute inflicting capital punishment, which was needless, was not mischievous? but there was a class of crimes holding a medium of atrocity, and these he would have made a subject of inquiry.—He did not wish to take away judicial discretion; he thought it most useful; but he wished to consider whether this judicial discretion should amount to life and death.—With respect to the effect which the mitigation of capital punishment had on offenders, he was of opinion it only made the punishment of transportation light, while they reflected on having escaped that of death, to which by law they were liable.—The effect of heavy penalties had deterred many from prosecution, as well as of those likely to become witnesses. But the knowledge of this had a very opposite effect on the minds of the criminals at the time of committing offences. Last session an Hon. Gentleman (Mr. J. Smith) said, that the bankers were deterred from prosecuting for forgery on account of the punishment of death. The same was the case in the secretion of property by bankrupts. The severity of our revenue laws also tended to prove what Lord Bacon had said long ago, that severity of penalty would always deter from inflicting punishment. He was not against the punishment of death; but that guardian of men's lives and properties was daily being impaired by its being denounced from the judgment-seat, without its possibly being put in execution. The opinion of Sir W. Grant was, that no penal enactments should exist of great severity; except as far as they accorded with the general opinion of the country. This was also the opinion of Mr. Fox, Lord Grenville, and others of the greatest statesmen in the kingdom. It was to render the laws more popular, and bring back among the people the ancient respect for the law; it was to render them more easy of execution, and the dread of them more overwhelming, that he intreated the House to support him in this motion. It was well known that for half a century juries had been in the habit of returning the value of stolen property greatly under the real value. This, Mr. Justice Blackstone called a pious perjury; but it was one necessity for which ought certainly to be removed. On this subject, the petition of the citizens of London was entitled to the highest deference and respect, since they were magistrates or jurors of the greatest metropolis in the kingdom, or persons in business, most exposed to depredations of every kind. Yet though the natural feelings of men are to destroy those that injure them, the citizens of London had become disabused of that natural feeling. He hoped the petition on the same subject, from the Quakers, would also be treated with respect. The Hon. Gentleman concluded by moving for the appointment of a committee to inquire into and consider so much of the criminal law as relates to capital felonies, and to report their opinions thereon to the House.

Lord CASTLEREAGH was happy to find that the Hon. Gentleman did not intend to propose any new criminal code, nor to take away from the executive government the great right of pardoning offences. He was of opinion, however, that the course proposed was not likely to lead to any practical result, the Inquiry appointed in 1750 lasted two sessions, and after all produced nothing practical. The same was the case in 1770; and, for this reason, he thought the abstract principle, as well as the practical part of this question, should be examined together. For these reasons he felt it his duty to move the previous question on the motion of the Hon. and Learned Gentleman.

Mr. Buxton thought it impossible that the committee appointed could inquire into the state of all the prisons; the whole police; the hulks, transportation, and a new colony of the Antipodes, if they were to inquire also into the state of the criminal law. The want of religious instruction was the great cause of the increase of

crime. He hoped the House would agree to send the inquiry into the criminal code to a distinct committee, as he was of opinion that our criminal laws did greatly tend to the increase of crime. He compared ten years at one time and ten at another, in which the number of the capital convictions had increased in a proportion of between four and five to one. More crimes had been declared capital in the reigns of the Brunswicks, than in the reigns of the Plantagenets, all the Tudors, and all the Stuarts. There were persons now living, who were in existence when the capital offences amounted to 60, and in the short space of the life of man, they had seen them quadrupled. Seventeen offences were made capital at once, one of which was the shooting at a man; another the killing of a rabbit; the third, trying to burn a man in his bed, and the fourth, cutting down heads of fish ponds. Lately, when a man was executed for forgery, the populace charged the law as murderous; for they called out that the man was murdered; and he thought they charged the law justly. In his opinion, the severity of the law had raised up a power in this country which abrogated the law, by producing uncertainty of punishment to the criminal. He did justice to the judges and the government, for their willingness to mitigate punishments; but what did this prove; why only that we were saved from the severity of our own law by the lenity of ministers. The laws against fraudulent bankrupts and forgers had operated greatly to the injury of trade. He instanced the cases of two gentlemen of the greatest mercantile dealings, who suffered two persons to go unprosecuted for forgeries on them. Cardinal Wolsey said, that the juries of his time were so blood-thirsty that they would find Abel guilty of the murder of Cain; the juries were now exactly the reverse, for, owing to the severity of our law, it was almost impossible to obtain a conviction. One jury had found a person guilty of stealing to the amount of 39s. when he had stolen 3l. in notes, and some bills of exchange. A man had put his breeches under his head to keep his money safe, and in the night a thief entered the room, took the money, and replaced the breeches. The jury found him guilty of stealing, but not in the dwelling house. Now, to make sense of that, the breeches must have been removed out of the house to be robbed, and, when that was done returned to its former place. He said, that from Parliamentary documents, it could be seen that it was ten to one that an offender was not taken; fifty to one that he was not prosecuted; a hundred to one that he was not convicted; and more than a thousand to one that he was not executed! The effects of executions were next to nothing, and any one might satisfy himself of that from the conduct and conversation of those present at such terrible exhibitions; and the prisoners themselves always said, after an execution, "Well, we can't pity him, he is now in heaven," thus shewing that no effect was produced on them. He appealed to the petitions of those very men who were the greatest losers by depredations, and who were the loudest in claiming a revision of our Penal Laws. Something must be done, and it ought to be submitted to a separate committee.

Mr. W. COURTENAY was of opinion that the alteration could be more effectually accomplished in this instance by the House itself, than by any of its committees.

Mr. J. SMITH said, the bankers of London entered into association, and employed a Solicitor to prosecute for forgeries; but individual feeling was always interfering to save culprits on account of the punishment. He had seen boys of 15 or 16 years of age, who had committed forgeries and hardly knew they had committed a crime. The prosecutions for fraudulent Bankruptcies were few indeed, compared with the number of such offences.

Mr. PROTHROBE made several strong observations in favour of the original motion; and after stating the general feeling of the country, concluded by exclaiming, "if indeed we are, as we are said to be, the representatives of the people of England, we are bound to give our vote in favour of the original motion."—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. M. WILBERFORCE was impatient that the laws of our country should possess the respect of, as well as authority over, our countrymen. The Hon. Member was of opinion, the system of solitary confinement would prove most advantageous and efficacious, since it would afford to an offender time for reflection and amendment, and would probably restore him to society a better man.

Mr. CANNING was ready to allow that the law, as it at present stood, was such as ought not to continue. It was, as it were, a nuisance which should immediately be abated (Hear, hear!) In the statement of his Learned and Honorable Friend, he had understood him to go almost the length of saying the punishment of

death should only be retained in the case of murder. He feared all hopes of effecting this would prove visionary. The real question, however, appeared to him to be, could any secondary punishment be adopted, sufficient to operate as a prevention or restraint upon the commission of crime. He was astonished that any man should entertain an opinion, though he knew many conscientiously did, that any punishment could be devised which had more weight on the human mind, than the fear of death. He declared, that in his opinion, if the penalty of death failed of effect, no other penalty would have weight. On the whole view of the subject, he thought the House ought to have its substitutes ready before they talked of repeal, and not put it in the power of any miserable malefactor to say "What! execute me under laws upon which you yourselves have pronounced the sentence of condemnation?" (Hear, hear!) With respect to the labours of the Committee already appointed, it certainly would not be in their power to visit every prison in the kingdom; but they might inquire into what prisons ought to be improved, report on that determination, and by Address to the Crown, Commissioners might be appointed to investigate the several prisons, and see how far they could be made to conform to that system; and this he thought might be done, not in a few months only, but even in a few weeks. The Right Honorable Gentleman concluded by repeating his opinion, that the plan recommended by his Noble Friend would be far more efficacious than that suggested by his Honorable and Learned Friend.

Mr. SCARLETT pronounced a high eulogium on the late Sir S. Romilly, who he said, was well known to him, as he was his earliest and dearest friend. On one occasion, ten years ago, he (Mr. Scarlett) had presumed to advise his lamented friend to add to one of his bills a preamble, setting forth the opinion of the Commons of England, that severity of punishment did not tend to the diminution of crime. The bill was passed; but the preamble, which his lamented friend had adopted on his recommendation, was rejected. His lamented friend was not discouraged, he persevered, Session after Session; and the last parliamentary act of his illustrious life was to succeed in getting the preamble adopted. (Hear, hear!) The Honorable and Learned Gentleman then proceeded to argue that the increase of prosecutions, under the modified laws, was no proof of increase of crime, but that on a comparison with other crimes and their increase, it would be found, that in these there was a considerable diminution. He then proceeded to take a view of the labours assigned to the Noble Lord's committee, which, he contended, were so extensive, they would defeat their own object; and further, that the object of capital punishments might be well withdrawn from it. The Honorable Gentleman said, he was ready to agree with his Right Honorable Friend; that no fear could equal the fear of death, and he did not desire to do away that fear; he only wished to remove those impotent statutes which conveyed no fears, statutes upon which judges, juries, and witnesses, entered into conspiracies, amiable ones, indeed, but still conspiracies, to defeat those statutes. The severity of these statutes was not a terror to the criminal, but a means of deterring prosecutors. If, then, the sentence of condemnation had become a mere mockery, he should advise them to make the theory and practice of the law of England to coincide; for if there was any country where the law was mildly administered toward criminals, it was England; and if there was any which was more disgraced by sanguinary enactments than another, it was likewise England. (Long and loud cheers.) He therefore hoped, that when the House considered the importance of the subject, it would not vote for the previous question. (Loud cheering.)

Alderman WOOD and the Attorney-General made a few observations in so low a tone of voice, and amid such noise, that we could not hear them in a continuous and distinct manner in the gallery.

Sir JAMES MACKINTOSH replied at some length. If he were but to read the names of his committee, it would be admitted that it was as fair a selection of all parties and denominations as could be made (Cries of "read, read.") Mr. Bathurst, Mr. Scarlett, the Attorney-General, the Solicitor General, Mr. Wilberforce, Lord Nugent, Mr. Abercromby, Hon. G. J. Vernon, Mr. Alderman Wood, Mr. Buxton, Mr. Brougham, Mr. Bonnett, Mr. Courtenay, Mr. Wynn, Mr. Macdonald, Dr. Phillimore, Mr. Lytleton, Lord Althorp, and Mr. Howorth.

The House then divided.—Ayes for the motion, 147—Noes, 123.—Majority against Ministers, 19.

The result was received with successive cheers.—Adjourned.

Domestic Occurrences.

MARRIAGES.

At Madras, on the 14th of July, by the Reverend Mr. Keating, Charles Maitland Busby, Esq. of the Civil Service, to Mary Catharine, eldest Daughter of the late Colonel Andrew McCally, of the Madras Establishment.

DEATHS.

At Sydney, on the 9th of January, Ellen, the Infant Daughter of Nicholas Bayly, Esq.

Shipping Intelligence.

CALCUTTA ARRIVALS.

(None)

CALCUTTA DEPARTURES.

(None)

Nautical Notices.

On the 11th of January, the Derwent Schooner, Captain Carr, sailed from Sydney for Hobart Town.

On the 15th of January, sailed from Sydney for the Southern Settlements, the schooner Young Lachlan, Captain Howard, and the brig Governor Macquarie, Captain Sutherland, for Kangaroo Island.

The following vessels were at Sydney on the 16th of January, viz. ships Tyne, Globe, Earl St. Vincent, Tottenham, Shipley, General Stewart, and the Hadlow; brigs Guide, Active, Campbell Macquarie, Perseverance, Endeavour, Queen Charlotte, Daphne; and the schooners Elizabeth and Mary.

The following is an account of the number of vessels reported at the Custom House of Liverpool, for the year 1818, without including the vessels employed in the coasting trade:

From Europe,	807
British from Foreign Ports,	827
Foreign from Foreign Ports, ..	359
Ireland and Isle of Man,	1824
Total	3817

exceeding the arrivals in the preceding year by 717. The number of vessels arrived from the East Indies last year, and included in the above statement, was 34, comprising 26,852 tons. The number which has cleared out from Liverpool since the opening of this trade exceeds 160.—The number of vessels employed in the coasting trade (including those from Ireland with grain only) may be computed at from 2300 to 2500; exclusive of 10 to 50 vessels daily navigating the Mersey between Liverpool and the Weaver and the Sankey navigations.

Surprising Errors.

To the Editor of the Philosophical Journal.

SIR,

I have just seen the Nautical Almanac for the year 1820; and am happy to find that the attention of the Commissioners of the Board of Longitude has been at length turned towards the numerous errors with which that work has lately abounded. I was in hopes, however, that when a reformation had commenced, it would have been complete; and that the Nautical Almanac would have assumed a character and appearance similar to other works of the same kind which are published at Paris and Berlin; and thereby have prevented the necessity of referring to either of those works for information, which is actually the case in the present ephemeris, as we are referred by Mr. Pond, in his preface to the *Connaissance des Temps* for a catalogue of stars which, together with many other tables, &c. ought to accompany our own publication. As the Commissioners, however, have not thought proper to enlarge the work, I shall confine my observations to such matters as actually appear in it.

My attention was very soon attracted to the singularity of two prefaces: that of Dr. Maskelyne being ordered by the Commissioners to be retained, *out of respect to his memory*.—How the retention of the few lines which he has there written can add any respect to his memory, I am at a loss to conceive. They are chiefly historical, and have nothing to do with the present volume. Surely the material part of what he has there stated might have been more properly engrafted in any new preface, and would have prevented that confusion and ambiguity which arise from the two prefaces as they now stand. For Dr. Maskelyne assures us, that the Tables, edited by Mr. Vince, "will be used for the calculations of the Nautical Almanac for succeeding years: whilst Mr. Pond, in his preface, hints at the tables of Burckhardt having been used in computing the place of the moon: but whether such practice commenced in the year 1817, 1818, 1819 or 1820, does not appear clear, as he is not explicit on these points as his illustrious predecessor. It is most probable likewise, that Mr. Pond, or Mr. Brown, or *Messieurs* the Commissioners, (for we are wholly at a loss to conjecture under whose management the work is now published,) may think it right to make use of Delambre's new tables of Jupiter's satellites; as well as of other tables which have been published since those of Mr. Vince.

But it appears that Mr. Pond was directed to retain the preface only he has therefore retained the whole of the explanation at the end, on his own responsibility: and any stranger taking up the work would naturally consider it as the production of Mr. Pond. But, how must the reader be amused at the present day with the description which he gives of himself in his voyage to Barbadoes in the year 1763, sitting in Mr. Irving's marine chair, with a telescope from fifteen to twenty feet long, which he assures us is the proper telescope for observing the eclipses of Jupiter's satellites! Surely such incongruities and absurdities ought to be banished from any work which professes to be written for the instruction of mankind.

Mr. Pond, in his preface, makes a feeble attempt to justify the omission of the occultations of the fixed stars; and hints that Dr. Maskelyne was convinced of the little importance of such occultations. But, Dr. Maskelyne has (in the explanation above alluded to) expressly stated that they are inserted in the work in order "to instruct mariners or travellers to look out frequently for such observations: which, if they happen to prove occultations, and are carefully observed, will afford a certain means of determining the longitude of the place of observation." Indeed, I believe, it will be found that they afford the best means of discovering the longitude of any given place: and as such occultations are very numerous (and not rare, as Mr. Pond would wish to insinuate) it is to be hoped that the attention of travellers will be drawn towards this branch of the science more than it has hitherto been. In addition to which I would remark, that M. Cagnoli has (in the Memoirs of the Italian Society) attempted to shew that the true figure of the earth may be ascertained by a connected series of such observations. But how does it happen (if the Commissioners have given directions that these occultations shall be inserted as formerly) that we find them wholly omitted in the present volume? For there is not a single occultation of any fixed star announced throughout the whole of the year: neither are the conjunctions of the moon with any of the fixed stars stated, except as to five of the principal ones of the first and second magnitude. It is true that the editor announces an occultation of one of the planets (Jupiter) in that year: but why is the occultation of another of the planets (Mars) in January omitted? the true conjunction of which will take place twenty minutes later than is stated in Nautical Almanac. I would observe likewise that the commencement of the solar eclipse in September is set down full one minute later than it ought to be; and the point when the moon makes the first impression of the sun's disc (48½ from the vertex) is omitted.

Whatever apology might be made for the careless manner in which the late volumes of the Nautical Almanac have been published, arising (as Mr. Pond informs us) from the confusion incident to the death of the Rev. Mr. Hitchens, and the delay attending the necessary instruction of the Rev. Mr. Brown, his successor has now passed six years of his astronomical education, it was to be presumed that such gross errors and omissions would not have been suffered to disgrace the future volumes of the Nautical Almanac.

I shall close this long letter, by observing that on casting my eye over the configurations of Jupiter's satellites for the month of January, I find the position of almost all of them to be erroneous.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ASTRONOMICUS.

P. S.—In the preface to the Nautical Almanac it is stated that "all the articles were computed by two separate persons, and examined by a third:" perhaps it may exercise the ingenuity and abilities of some of your readers, to determine the probability that three persons should commit precisely the same mistake in any calculation; and that a repetition of similar errors should occur several times in a work of 144 pages!!!

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